NOTE XLII.

SOME OBSERVATIONS RELATING TWO SEMNOPITHECUS-SPECIES FROM THE MALAYAN ARCHIPELAGO.

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September 1889.

(Plate 9, figs. 5, 6, 7).

The well known scientific investigator of North-East-Sumatra, Dr. B. Hagen, presented some weeks ago to our national Museum two skins belonging to two different *Semnopithecus*-species from Deli, in consequence of which I was obliged to enter into the labyrinth of synonymes of the very entangled *Semnopithecus*-group. The following lines contain some conclusions.

Semnopithecus femoralis Horsfield.

One of the specimens agrees exactly with the specimens collected by the late Horner on Mount Ophir, West-Central-Sumatra, and since in our Museum. The species has been described and figured in the »Verhandelingen, 1839—44, p. 73, Tab. 10 bis" under the name of *Semnopithecus Sumatranus*. »Although specifically separated from *S.* »*chrysomelas*", the author remarked, l. c. p. 73, »*S. Suma-*»*tranus* is by its general appearance and by its color so »closely allied to *S. chrysomelas* that it perhaps ought to »be considered as a local variety of that species."

In 1876 Schlegel (Catalogue, Simiae, p. 45) rejected the specific title *Sumatranus* in favour of the name given for-

merly by Horsfield, scilicet *S. femoralis*, but maintained the specific distinction of *S. chrysomelas*.

Anderson (Yunnan Expedition, 1878, p. 31) being ignorant of Schlegel's »Catalogue," as he nowhere quoted it in his book, asserted: »as has been pointed out by pre»vious authors, there do not appear to be any facts re»lating to the structure of the so-called *S. chrysomelas* »from Borneo that would sanction its recognition as a »species distinct from *S. femoralis* of Sumatra, and I have »arrived at this opinion after an examination of the type »specimens."

Oldfield Thomas (P. Z. S. L. 1886, p. 66) seems to differ from Anderson, for he states that »the few localities as »yet recorded for *S. femoralis* Horsfield are all either in »the South of the Malay Peninsula or in Sumatra." It is clear that Oldfield Thomas keeps *S. chrysomelas* distinct from *S. femoralis*, otherwise he would have added Borneo to the above given localities.

Blanford (The fauna of British India, 1888, Part I, p. 42) agrees, as it seems, more with Anderson, for he says that *S. femoralis* is distributed over Borneo, Sumatra and the Malay Peninsula, extending north into Tenasserim.

Having now given an exposition as short as possible of the stand of the question I will proceed to give my opinion in a few words. I confess that it is very difficult to observe striking differences between *S. femoralis* and *S. chrysomelas* as to their external appearance, but I think that only a careful study of their skulls will settle the question. In comparing adult skulls of *S. femoralis* with the drawings in the »Verhandelingen, plate 11, fig. 3," I am unable to find difference whatsoever, but in comparing the same bony parts of young specimens of the two species, I suppose that there are to be observed very striking differences. As I have no young skulls of *S. chrysomelas* to compare with the young ones of *S. femoralis* in our collection, I at present can only state that the peculiar form of the frontalia and parietalia in our young skulls of *S.*

femoralis hardly can be explained by difference in age alone; so that in my opinion we will do correct to accept, at all events previously, Schlegel's views and call the Borneo-form *S. chrysomelas*. I remark that the skull of *S. chrysomelas*, drawn by Schlegel in the »Verhandelingen" is not to be found in our Museum and that I wrongly said in my »Catalogue ostéologique" that skull *b* was there figured. The two skulls mentioned in my »Catalogue" are fullgrown but not so adult as Schlegel's figures indicate, the canines being much less developed in our specimens.

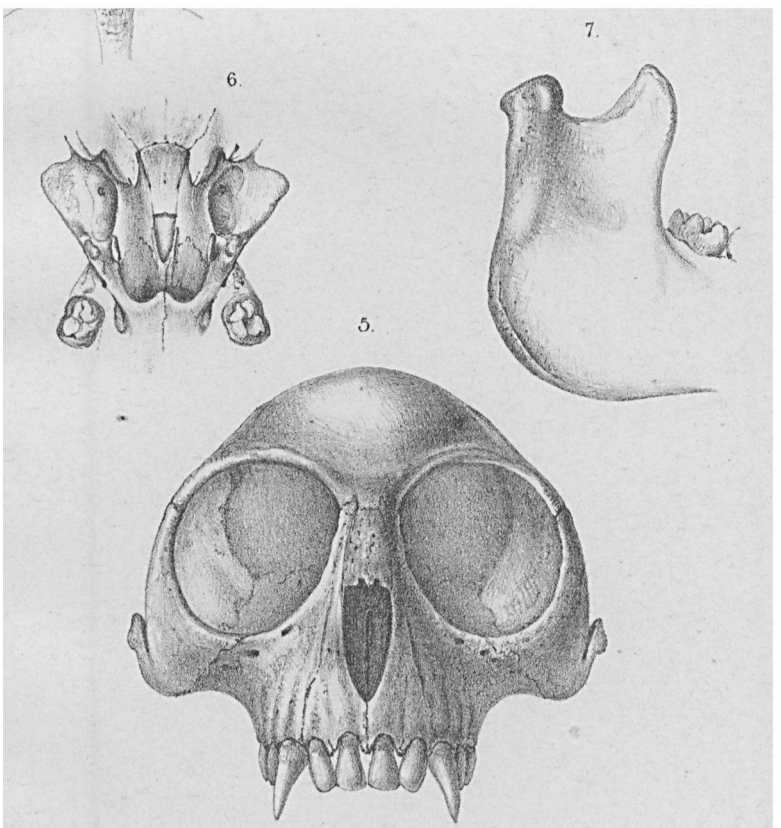
Semnopithecus maurus auctorum.

The second above mentioned *Semnopithecus* is a beautiful specimen belonging to the form described by Desmarest as *S. pruinosus*. Although Schlegel is quite right in his statement that the name given by Desmarest is more appropriate than the specific title bestowed upon it by Raffles, viz. *cristatus*, I think we should be forced to use Raffles' name, as having the priority of date and the more as being accompanied by a very excellent description. Schlegel wrote (Catalogue, Simiae, p. 58): »cette espèce ressemble »sous tous les rapports au *S. maurus*, à cette exception »près qu'elle a tous les poils du pelage plus ou moins lar»gement terminés de gris blanchâtre. Elle remplace le *S.* »*maurus* à Sumatra, Borneo et dans l'île de Bangka." Anderson (Yunnan Expedition, p. 30) wrote: »in the size »and proportions of its parts *S. cristatus* closely resembles »*S. maurus*, and many zoologists have considered it merely »as a local race of that form, an opinion justifiable from »the mere consideration of their external characters, but »it remains to be ascertained whether these views are sup»ported by the structure of their skeletons."

Now the skull of *S. pruinosus* (cf. plate 9, figs. 5, 6 and 7, drawn after the skull of Hagen's specimen) agrees in all details so exactly with the same bony parts of *S. maurus* that I cannot see any important difference and as the external characters of both forms are so very inconstant

and changeable I do not hesitate in considering the Sumatra-Bangka-Borneo-form as belonging to the same species as the Java-form, and as Schreber's specific title has the priority of about half a century over Raffles', we are obliged to call the species *Semnopithecus maurus* Schreber.

In accepting this name it must however be observed, that Schreber never has *described* a monkey under the mentioned specific title: he *figured* Tab. XXII, B, a young monkey under the name *Simia maura*, but called it in the text: »Der Mohraffe." As synonyme he cited *Simiolus ceilonicus* Seba, Thes. I, p. 77, tab. 48, fig. 3; Schreber adds »der Geburtsort dieser Gattung ist nach Seba Zeilan, nach »Herrn Edwards Guinea." If Schreber was right in uniting his *Simia maura* with Seba's *Simiolus ceilonicus*, then Seba's name ought to be given to the species in question, as Seba's book is from the year 1734, meanwhile Schreber's Säugethiere dates from 1775! But I think it need not to make more conjectures as my intention was merely to exhibit the specific similarity of *Semnopithecus pruinosus* Desmarest (*Semnopithecus cristatus* Raffles) with *Semnopithecus maurus* auctorum.



A. J. J. Wendel ad nat. del. et lith. P.W.M. Trap impr.

5, 6, 7. Semnopithecus pruinosus *Desmarest.*